



Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education



Programs and Services



Center for Deaf
and Hard of Hearing
Education





Center for *Deaf*
and *Hard of Hearing*
Education

Indiana Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education

Center Vision

Deaf and hard of hearing children will have the resources and support to reach their full potential.

Center Mission

To promote positive outcomes for all deaf and hard of hearing children through information, services and education.

Center Values

- Families as decision makers
- Self-Advocacy
- Unlimited potential
- Collaborative relationships
- Quality services

Guiding Principles

The Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education will:

1. Provide information regarding all communication opportunities to support parents in making informed decisions based on the child/student's unique needs and the family's priorities and values.
2. Honor the child/student as an integral part in any decision making process.
3. Respect, welcome and support children and their families across geographic locations, communication preferences, languages and cultures.
4. Honor each child's right to acquire optimal language skills and academic abilities.
5. Demonstrate a seamless collaborative model when working with families, schools, other agencies and providers including the deaf, hard of hearing and hearing communities.
6. Provide comprehensive, evidence-based, and objective information, resources, and services for auditory, visual, and instructional best practices to all deaf and hard of hearing children, families, professionals and programs.
7. Provide expert leaders who embrace and practice the tenets of cultural and linguistic diversity.
8. Manage the use of tracking and monitoring systems for individual child/student and program performance to guide state, local and individual services, programs, resources and professional training as a priority of the Center.



Audiology

Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing audiologists are Indiana First Steps providers and provide the following for children ages 0-3 years:

- Comprehensive diagnostic hearing assessment, including auditory brainstem evoked response (ABR) and otoacoustic emissions (OAE) testing for infants referring on newborn hearing screen
- Newborn hearing screening
- Behavioral hearing assessments including assessment with child's assistive technology including hearing aid(s), cochlear implant(s) and BAHA(s) on soft band
- Hearing aid consultation/evaluation, fitting and verification for children enrolled in the Indiana First Steps CDHHE Network
- Ongoing hearing and hearing aid monitoring for children enrolled in the Indiana First Steps CDHHE Network
- Available for consultation and to provide resources to parents, local audiologists and other providers and professionals

School Age Assessments and Services Include:

- Comprehensive and educationally relevant hearing assessments including assessment of speech perception skills with child's assistive technology (hearing aid(s), cochlear implant(s), bone anchored hearing system(s), FM/DM system)
- Hearing aid and FM system consultation and verification
- Hearing aid consultation/evaluation, fitting and verification of hearing aids for select children qualifying for the Hearing Aid Assistance Program of Indiana (HA-API)
- Functional classroom listening assessment
- Available for consultation, technical assistance, and as a resource for parents, local audiologists, teachers of Deaf and Hard of Hearing and other professionals

Appointments: *Contact Jane McWhirter at 317-232-7349 or jmcwhirter1@isdh.in.gov to schedule an appointment for audiology.*

Contact Michelle Wagner-Escobar, audiology coordinator, at 317-232-7438 or mwagnerescobar@isdh.in.gov for more information about the Audiology Program.



Assessment

The Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education provides appropriate assessment of children by qualified professionals for the purposes of eligibility determination, language and goal planning, placement considerations, monitoring performance and identifying additional learning challenges and developmental needs.

The Center Assessment Team also provides resources to help early intervention (birth to age 3) programs and schools corporations build capacity to meet the unique needs of children who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Assessments may be completed entirely by the Center Assessment Team or in collaboration with the local school's assessment team and may include several disciplines as determined by the student's educational team and/or in response to the family's concerns. Some examples of the assessments available at the Center include:

- Academic Assessment
- Access Technology Assessment
- Cognitive Assessment
- Communication/Language Assessment
- Educational Audiology Assessment
- Executive Function
- Functional Assessment (within the educational environment)
- Observation (natural learning environment)
- Sensory Processing
- Social-Emotional Assessment
- Visual-Motor

Referrals: Providers, specialists, public school administrators and legal guardians may refer to the Assessment Team (after obtaining Permission to Exchange or Release Information) by completing a **Referral for Assessment or Consultation** form available by emailing CDHHE@isdh.in.gov, downloading from the Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education Learning Connection Community page, or by calling any of the following numbers:

855-875-5193 (toll free), 317-232-7349 (local) or 317-520-3301 (VP).

Contact Lorinda Bartlett, School Psychologist/Assessment Lead, at 317-232-0900 or lobartlett@isdh.in.gov for more information about the Assessment Program.



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
Date Received: _____

REFERRAL FOR ASSESSMENT OR CONSULTATION

SENT VIA: ☐ **E-MAIL** [CDHHE@ISDH.IN.GOV, LOBARTLETT@ISDH.IN.GOV, DSALAZAR@ISDH.IN.GOV] ☐ **FAX** [317-550-4873]
☐ **POSTAL SERVICE** [ISDH-Center for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Education, 2 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-3021]
REQUEST FOR: ☐ Audiology Services ☐ Speech-Language Services ☐ Comprehensive Assessment [language, academics, etc.]

REFERRAL INFORMATION

Referral Date:	Referred by: <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Guardian <input type="checkbox"/> LEA/TOR <input type="checkbox"/> Audiologist <input type="checkbox"/> Doctor <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		
Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing (TDHH):	Teacher of Record (TOR):	*if different than Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing	
LEA/TOR/TDHH E-mail:	LEA/TOR/TDHH Ph#	LEA/TOR/TDHH Fax#	
Information included with referral: <input type="checkbox"/> IEP/IFSP <input type="checkbox"/> Audiogram(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Language/Speech Eval. <input type="checkbox"/> School Eval. <input type="checkbox"/> Center Release <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____			
Previous Services: <input type="checkbox"/> First Steps/Early Intervention <input type="checkbox"/> Private Therapy _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> See attached IIEP Notice of (Re-)evaluation for reason for referral and requested areas of assessment; DUE DATE (Timeline): _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> No IIEP Notice of (Re-)evaluation generated.			
<u>Reason for referral (required):</u>			

STUDENT INFORMATION

Student's Last Name:	First Name:	DOB:	Age:	Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F
School District:	School of Legal Settlement:	School of Service (where child attends):		
Does child/student have an IEP?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, s/he has an IEP	<input type="checkbox"/> No, s/he does not have an IEP		
	Date of Last Case Conference:	Why?		
STN#:	Current Grade:	Primary (IEP) Eligibility:	Secondary (IEP) Eligibilities:	
Parent/Guardian Names:				
Street Address:		City:	County:	ZIP:
Parent/Guardian Home or Cell Phone#:	Alternate Contact (Name and Phone #/Email):		Parent/Guardian E-mail:	
Preferred Contact: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	Family Member? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		Preferred Contact: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
Home Language: <input type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> ASL <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish	Student's Language: <input type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> ASL <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish		<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	
SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE ASSESSMENT TEAM:				



Deaf Education

The Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education is a part of the Indiana Department of Education [Indiana Resource Network](#) serving as subject matter experts. The Deaf Education Team keeps the student's language, access, and education needs (encompassing social, emotional, communicative, self-identity, and self-advocacy) at the forefront of all recommendations and aligns with the 2018 National Association of State Directors of Special Education, Inc. [Optimizing Outcomes for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing: Educational Service Guidelines](#). The Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education respects the family's choice in communication modality and works collaboratively with schools and families to ensure students reach their highest potential.

Deaf Education initiatives:

- Participation on statewide workgroups and committees
- Deaf Education professional network (regional DHH Roundtables)
- Best-Practice classroom, curricular and technological resources

We provide support, consultation, resources, technical assistance and professional development that are specific to students who are deaf and hard of hearing while adhering to all state and local laws, following current evidence-based best practice, and aligning with national and statewide trends in the following areas:

- Accommodations
- Equal Access in the Educational Setting/Least Restrictive Environment
- Audiology including Auditory Skill Development and Hearing Assistive Technology (HAT)
- Communication and Direct Communication Opportunities with Peers and Adults
- Educational Interpreting
- Eligibility for Deaf and Hard of Hearing services
- Language Development
- Provision of Educational Services and Related Services
- Universal Design for Learning

The Deaf Education team is available to partner with local educators in collaborative efforts to meet additional needs such as locating qualified professionals to fill job vacancies or contractual duties in the following disciplines: Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Deaf/Hard of Hearing Adult Involvement, Listening and Spoken Language Specialist, Educational Audiology, and Educational Interpreting. **To request these services:** Providers, specialists, public school administrators, and legal guardians may contact Deaf Education by contacting CDHHE@isdh.in.gov or by calling any of the following numbers: 855-875-5193 (toll free), 317-232-7349 (local) or 317-520-3301 (VP).



Early Intervention

The Joint Commission on Infant Hearing (JCIH) defines best practices include providers who:

- have professional qualifications and expertise in working with deaf and hard of hearing children
- have core knowledge in order to optimize the child's development and child/family wellbeing
- have core knowledge regarding all communication opportunities to support informed decision making
- provide service in the child's natural environment

The Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education provides information regarding all communication opportunities to support parents in making informed decisions based on their child's unique needs and the family's priorities and values.

Early Intervention initiatives:

- Information and resources for families and professionals
- Early childhood assessments, including participating in the Early Childhood Assessment (ECA) for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children
- Training and professional development for individual providers and First Steps agencies
- Playgroups and family events

The following are services provided through the Center's Early Intervention (EI) program:

- **The CDHHE Early Intervention Network**, a statewide referral network within Indiana's First Steps Early Intervention system, providing ongoing services to infants and toddlers who are deaf and hard of hearing. Services through First Steps include parent advising, developmental therapy-DHH, and speech-language therapy.
- **Deaf Mentor Services** provide families with the experience of being connected with a Deaf adult by introduction, exposure and shared strategies involving American Sign Language (ASL), Deaf Culture and the Deaf Community.

Referrals: Send referrals for Early Intervention services to the **CDHHE** Network at CDHHEnetwork@isdh.in.gov

Contact Cindy Lawrence, Early Intervention Coordinator, at 317-232-0899 or clawrence@isdh.in.gov more information about the Early Intervention Program



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Indiana State
Department of Health

Mailing Address

2 N. Meridian
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Locations

Central: Indianapolis
Northeast Regional Center: Fort Wayne
Southeast Regional Center: Scottsburg

Contact

317/232-7349 (Local: Indianapolis)
317/520-3301 (Video Phone)
317/750-0246 (Cell/Text)
855/875-5193 (Toll Free)
317/550-4873 (Fax)
CDHHE@isdh.in.gov

Website: www.cdhhe.isdh.in.gov

Facebook: www.facebook.com/cdhhe

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